

REMARKS**I. Claims 1, 13, 25, 26, and 29 - 103 Rejection – Commodity Training Manual in View of Walker '207.**

Each of the above independent claims has been amended to add the element of “establishing a defined allocation of an amount of a type of agricultural commodity according to at least one allocation parameter, wherein at least one of the at least one allocation parameter is set to reduce risk associated with future contracting of agricultural commodities”.

The element of “storage of data in the database system relating to types and amounts of agricultural commodities desired by one or more potential agricultural commodity buyers” was already present in each independent claim.

Together, these two elements define patentably over Walker. The Office has conceded this, in the May 31, 2006 Allowance Notice for the patent application no. 09/335,648 (now Pat. No. 7124108). Please see page 2 of the Allowance Notice, attached to this amendment as Exhibit 1, wherein the examiner states that Walker neither discloses nor fairly suggests the elements that are now present in each independent claim of the current application.

Moreover, the Commodity Trading Manual also does not disclose or fairly suggest these two elements – and thus no combination of the Commodity Trading Manual and Walker would disclose or suggest these two elements.

In addition, the preamble of each independent claim has been amended to further define that the methods/apparatus/systems of the invention are for future contracting of agricultural commodities.

II. Claim 24 - 103 Rejection – Commodity Training Manual in View of Walker ‘207, Walker ‘346, Smith ‘952, and the Hipsley Publication.

Claim 24 has been canceled.

III. Dependent Claims

The other claims in the application depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, 13, 25, or 26. They are patentable over the prior art for the same reasons as the independent claims.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, Applicant submits that the claims all define patentably over the prior art. Therefore Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action they respectfully solicit.

Respectfully,

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-23 and 25-39 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance for Claims 1-23 and 25-39: The best prior art of record, *Walker et al* neither discloses nor fairly suggests the limitation of, in a formation of agricultural contracts for future contracting of agricultural commodities, storage of data in the database system relating to types and amounts of agricultural commodities desired by one or more potential agricultural commodity buyers and establishing a defined allocation of an amount of a type agricultural commodity according to at least one allocation parameter wherein at least one of the at least one allocation parameter is set to reduce risk associated with future contracting of agricultural commodities.

The *Nara* reference is cited for its teachings of agricultural contracts.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Kyle whose telephone number is (571) 272-6746. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 to 3:00.